

cavity and brought in contact with the air, without the intervention of any true vascular system.

The beautiful transparency of the animal, and the facility with which the development of the ovum may be traced through all its stages, induces the author to believe it to be well-suited to the inquiries of the embryologist and of those who devote themselves to the study of the metamorphosis of cell into tissue.

This animalcule has hitherto been discovered only in a few situations (in Norfolk near Norwich, and in Warwickshire near Coventry), but it is believed, from the very general dispersion of Infusoria, that it may be more extensively met with, especially in the months of June, July, August and beginning of September.

The author concludes by expressing his belief that re-examination of the whole order of Rotifera is necessary to determine the disposition of the sexes, and to assign them their proper situation in the scale of animated beings.

#### BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

May 10, 1849.—Professor Balfour, President, in the Chair.

The following communications were read :—

1. "Description of *Monormia*, Berkeley," by G. H. K. Thwaites, Esq., communicated by John Ralphs, Esq. This genus is allied to *Trichormus*, Allman, differing principally, if not solely, in its definite, linear frond, which encloses a single moniliform filament to be traced throughout all the peculiar convolutions of the frond. The vesicular cells are interstitial, and occur singly. The sporangia are numerous, and are first formed from the cells at the greatest distance from the vesicular cells. Without due attention *Monormia* might easily be mistaken for a species of *Nostoc*; but the mass formed by its convoluted frond is not enclosed by a common membranous pellicle as in that genus.

*Monormia intricata* occurs in slightly brackish waters in floating gelatinous masses, each about as large as a walnut, and usually of a reddish brown colour.

The paper concluded with a synoptical table of the genera of *Nostochineæ*, and will appear in the 'Annals of Natural History' and the Society's Transactions.

2. "On the Causes which determine the Limits of the different species of Vegetables in the North of Europe," by Robert Huish, Esq., F.L.S., communicated by William Wallace Fyfe, Esq. In this communication Mr. Huish gave a condensed view of the researches of M. Alphonse DeCandolle in this interesting department of botanical science.

Dr. Balfour exhibited plants of the following interesting species from the Royal Botanic Garden, and made remarks upon them, viz.: *Trichopilia tortilis*; *Maxillaria Harrisonii*; *Oxalis bupleurifolia*, a shrubby species from Brazil; *Cereus crinitus*; *Pinguicula grandiflora*, distinguished by the large size of the flower, length of spur and continuity of the segments of the corolla; *Xylophylla latifolia*; *Persea*

*gratissima*, the Avocado pear of the West Indies, at present in flower in the garden; *Aloe umbellata*, in flower; and *Weigelia rosea*, a hardy shrub, recently introduced from China, in flower.

Mr. Evans exhibited flowering specimens of the following plants from the Caledonian Horticultural Society's garden:—*Schivereckia podolica*; *Rubus arcticus*; *Androsace villosa*; *Veronica repens*; a curious variety of *Athyrium filix-fœmina* from Braemar; *Woodsia Ilvensis*; and a fine plant of *Paris quadrifolia*, from Arniston woods near Edinburgh.

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Capnodium, novum Fungorum genus.* Auctore C. MONTAGNE, D.M.

Peridium carnosum, polymorphum, lageniforme, clavatum aut ceranoideum, e duplici strato formatum, exteriori scilicet colorato celluloso, cellulis subirregularibus penta-hexagonis, parallelogrammis (in ostiolo) linearibusque, interiori mucilagineo hyalino fere anhisto, apice irregulariter rumpens, interdum ore fimbriatum. Nucleus gelatinosus. Sporidia subsena, oblonga, transversim triseptata tandem septis longitudinalibus subeuntibus cellulosa, fuscescentia, ascis late obovoideis vel clavatis, mox diffluenti-resorptis inclusæ.

Thallus superficialis, libere evolutus, nigrescens e floccis brevibus contortis ramosis, moniliformibus aut cylindricis articulatis fuscis dense intricatis compositus.—In Australia, America boreali, Gallia australi et media (ad Versalias) fructiferum inventum.—Locus in systemate prope *Antennariam*. Affinitates. Habitus *Antennariæ*, at *Scoriæ*, Fr. magis affine, cum et in hac nuperrime ascos inveni. Hinc inter *Gliotrichum* et *Scoriam* nulla adest analogia; similitudinem quamdam, saltem ab aspectus judicio, cum *Synalissa* habet. *Asterina* et *Meliola*, quæ *Capnodio* magis affines, in serie diversa, differunt, prima autem floccis seu fibrillis folio matricive applicatis nec liberis, nec erectis, ultima vero fibris setisve rigidis simplicibus longissimis, quibus horrent perithecia, quas perperam pro ostiolis aliqui habuerunt, utraque tandem ascis oligospermis, ut formam perithecorum globosam præteream. Quoad collum peridii elongatum, filii aut corniforme, interdum ore fimbriatum, ut et morphosim sporidiorum hoc nostrum genus a *Melanospora*, Corda, haud multum distare videtur.

Typus generis *Capnodii*, *Fumago Citri*, Turpin, Mém. de Nosol. Végét. in Mém. Ac. Sc. de Paris, sav. étr. tom. vi. p. 240 cum icone, sed fructif. non intellecta nec visa. Ascos observavi in specie affini (*C. salicinum*) ad folia *Salicum* e sect. Cinerella, in Helvetia (d. Rofavier) necnon circa Parisios (cl. Durieu) lecta.

### PODISOMA FUSCUM.

There is a small group of Fungi, consisting of the two genera *Podisoma* and *Gymnosporangium*, and occurring only on different species of Juniper, which, in outward aspect, resemble exactly the gelatinous masses of certain *Tremella*, though in point of fact nearly